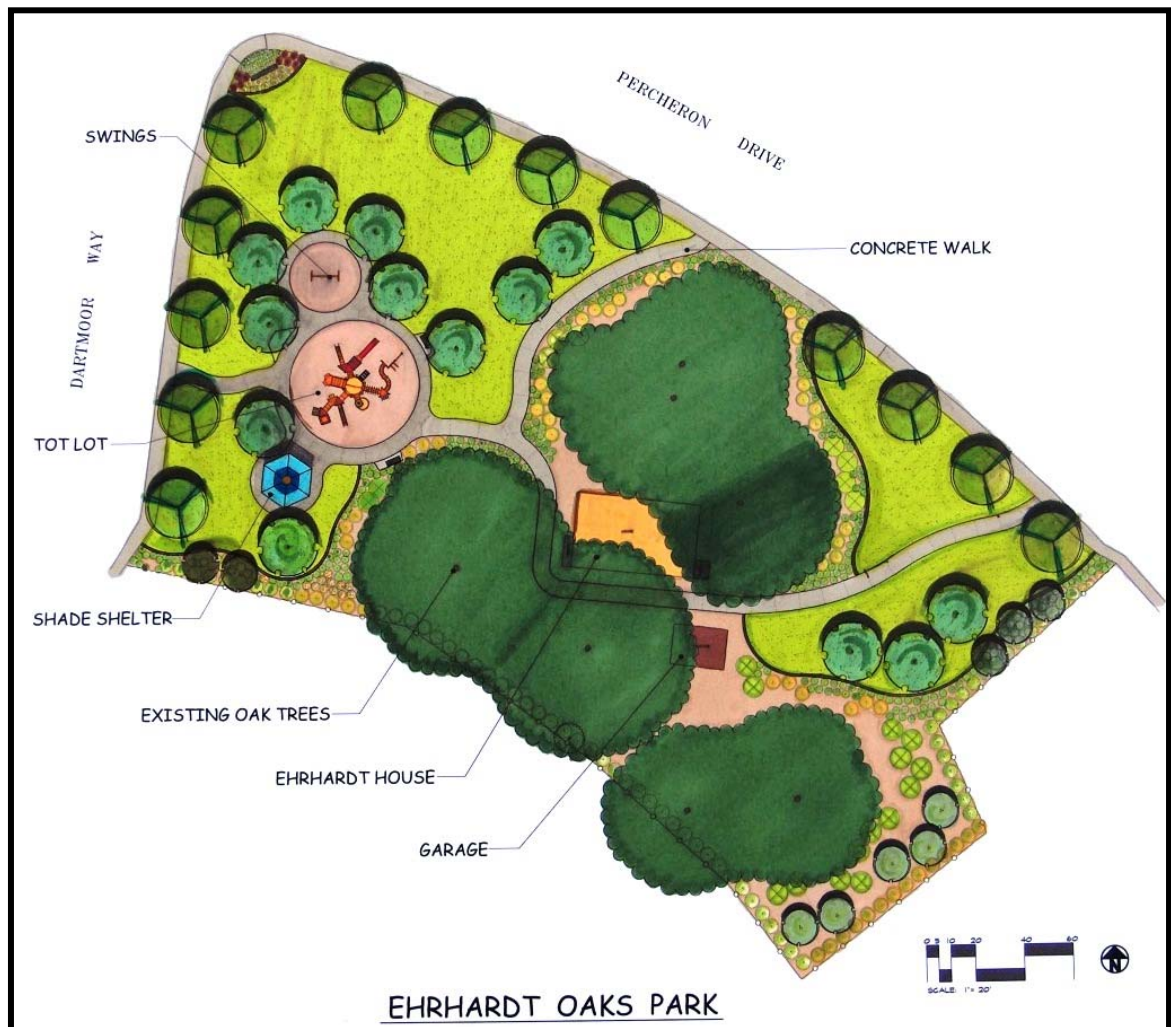




Ehrhardt Oaks Park Design

Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) – 405-5300

- Size:** 1.9 Acres
- Location:** Southeast Corner of Dartmoor Way and Percheron Drive
- Amenities:** Tot lot, shade structure, a turf and landscape play area, and restoration of Historic Ehrhardt Home.
- Design:** The CSD held community meetings to solicit input on the playground design in spring 2005.
- Timing:** Park construction will be complete in summer 2006. Ehrhardt Home restoration is occurring throughout Fiscal Year 2006-07.



Ehrhardt Oaks Park Design Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) – 405-5300

Ehrhardt Home and Family History

John Ehrhardt, originally from Germany, brought his wife and five children to America in 1850 to flee the German laws that he felt were unfair. The family settled in Chariton County, Missouri, where three of John's brothers were already settled.

In 1852 John Ehrhardt, who was a shepherd in his native Germany, and his son, John Ehrhardt Jr., were hired to drive 7,000 sheep from Missouri to California. They crossed the plains, rivers, desserts and mountains on foot with their flock of 7,000 sheep. They wintered the sheep in Ogden, Utah. In the spring, when the snow cleared from the mountains they brought the sheep to the busy wagon-building town of Sheldon in the new state of California.

They arrived in Sheldon in June of 1853, fourteen months after they had set out. While making this trip they were fortunate in meeting the famous scout and hunter Kit Carson on the Platte River, and in 1853, John Jr. met him again in Sloughouse. Kit Carson gave young John two Mexican Sheep Dogs, which he possessed for many years. The elder Ehrhardt returned to Missouri and John Ehrhardt Jr. stayed in California earning a living herding sheep for fifty dollars a month. Although only 15, he had done a man's work crossing the plains. He probably thought nothing of taking care of himself in his new California home away from his family.

John Ehrhardt became the first big time sheep rancher in the area, buying and selling several ranches before purchasing 805 acres in 1876 in the East Franklin area, where he made his home and raised wheat and alfalfa and bred sheep and cattle. In 1865 John Ehrhardt married Caroline Hollman and raised six sons and two daughters. One of those sons being William, who was given 160 acres of the East Franklin ranch.

William Ehrhardt married Annie Ferguson. William and Annie had four children Violet, Dorothy, Mildred, and Wilbur. Annie worked for her father-in-law, John Ehrhardt, on the ranch.

In 1913 William Ehrhardt purchased a "kit" home with money his father had received from selling land where Folsom Dam now sits. With an increasing demand for less substantial, more practical houses, kit homes were popular in the United States from 1900-1940, compared to the ornamental Victorians of the previous era. The house plans and materials were shipped by rail to East Franklin. The parts were then taken to the home site on Franklin Blvd., and the home was placed under heritage oak trees, which still stand.

William Ehrhardt and his family lived in the home until 1938 when they moved to Santa Cruz. William's daughter Dorothy stayed in the house with her family. Dorothy lived in the house until 1952 when it was sold to the Jungkeit family who had a successful dairy business there for many years.